

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 SSC-01 SSM-03 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-08 /073 W  
-----201300Z 016913 /43

P R 201125Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1840  
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY THERAN  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 1921/1

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, AF  
SUBJ: NEW CABINET ANNOUNCED

REF: A. KABUL 1443 B. KABUL 1823

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT DAOUD ANNOUNCED MARCH 17  
THE FIRST CABINET UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION TO  
REPLACE CABINET FORMALLY DISSOLVED ON FEBRUARY 26  
(REF A). NEW CABINET CONTAINS TWO NEW MINISTRIES  
(HIGHER EDUCATION, STATE), BUT LIST OF MINISTERS  
IS LONG ON INCUMBENTS AND SHORT ON SURPRISES.  
FORMER MINISTER OF FRONTIER AFFAIRS FAIZ MOHAMMAD  
WAS ONLY MINISTER DROPPED COMPLETELY AND ABDUL  
KAYOUM WAS DEMOTED TO FRONTIER AFFAIRS FROM MORE  
PRESITIGIOUS MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. DEPUTY PRIME  
MINISTERS APPOINTED AFTER 1973 HAVE BEEN GIVEN  
NO ROLE IN NEW CONSTITUTION AND FIRST DEPUTY PRIME  
MINISTER HASSAN SHARQ'S NAME DOES NOT APPEAR. WHILE THIS  
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HAS FUELED PERENNIAL RUMORS OF HIS POLITICAL  
DEMISE, WE BELIEVE THIS TRUSTED DAOUD LIEUTENANT  
COULD AGAIN SURFACE AS A YET TO BE NAMED VICE PRESIDENT.  
MARCH 17 ANNOUNCEMENT WENT ON TO STATE THAT VICE PRESIDENTS  
WILL BE APPOINTED AFTER PROCLAMATION OF CHARTER  
OF "HEZBE ENGELABE MILLIE" (NATIONAL REVOLUTION  
PARTY) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION WHICH

STATES THAT THESE OFFICERS SHALL BE DRAWN FROM THE PARTY. WHILE CABINET LIST INVOLVES OTHER SHIFTS OF PORTFOLIO AND ELEVATION OF SEVERAL FORMER DEPUTY MINISTERS TO HIGHER STATUS, ONLY NEW FACE IS THAT OF MOHAMMAD IBRAHIM MAJID SERAJ AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION. MAJID SERAJ, WHO IS A MOHAMMADZAI (MEMBER OF INFLUENTIAL EXTENDED FAMILY/CLAN TO WHICH DAOUD BELONGS), HAS PREVIOUSLY HELD CABINET RANK BUT NO POSITION SINCE DAOUD ASSUMED POWER IN 1973.

2. THOSE HOPING FOR MAJOR CHANGES WILL BE DISAPPOINTED BY THE NEW CABINET WHICH IS BASICALLY AS THE AFGHAN PROVERT STATES "THE SAME SOUPTEN THE SAME BOWL". YET THE CHANGES EFFECTED ARE QUINTESSENTIALLY DAOUD -- INCREMENTAL SHIFTS IN DIRECTIONS FAMILIAR FROM THE LAST FEW YEARS. A SLIGHT SHIFT TOWARD GREATER TECHNICAL COMPETENCE, AWAY FROM THE LFET, AND TOWARD HEALING THE RIFTS IN THE FIRST FAMILY (THE MOHAMMADZAI) CAUSED BY THE 1973 COUP. FOR THE U.S. THE CHANGES INDICATE A RETURN TO BUSINESS AS USUAL AS PRACTICED PRIOR TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL DELIBERATIONS WHICH FROZE NORMAL AFGHAN BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS FROM JANUARY, 1977 TO PRESENT. END SUMMARY.

3. KABUL RADIO EVENING MARCH 17 ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT DAOUD HAS FORMED A GOVERNMENT COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:  
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MINISTER OF STATE ( A NEWLY CREATED MINISTRY)-  
ABDUL MAJID (WAS JUSTICE MINISTER).  
MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE - GENERAL GHULAM  
HAIDAR RASULI (WAS CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF AND CENTRAL FORCES  
COMMANDER).  
MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION (NEWLY CREATED) -  
CHULAM SIDIQ MOHEBI (WAS PRESIDENT KABUL UNIVERSITY).  
MINISTER OF EDUCATION - IBRAHIM MAJID SERAJ  
(FORMER MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, INACTIVE  
SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF REPUBLIC).  
MINISTER OF JUSTICE - WAFIULLAH SAMAYEE (WAS  
SECOND DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION).  
MINISTER OF INTERIOR - ABDUL KADIR (NURISTANI)  
(INCUMBENT)  
MINISTER OF FINANCE - SAYED ABDULILAH (INCUMBENT,  
ALSO WAS SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER).  
MINISTER OF COMMERCE - MOHAMMAD KHAN JALALAR  
(INCUMBENT).  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE - AZIZULLAH WASSEFI

(INCUMBENT).

MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES - ABDUL TAWAB

ASSEFI (INCUMBENT).

MINISTER OF PLANNING - ALI AHMAD KHURRAM

(INCUMBENT).

LTINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH - ABDULLAH OMAR

(INCUMBENT).

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE - ABDURRAHIM

NIVEN (INCUMBENT).

MINISTER OF FRONTIER AFFAIRS - ABDUL KAYOUM

(WARDAK) (WAS MINISTER OF EDUCATION)

MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS - GHASUDDIN FAEQ

(INCUMBENT).

MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS - ABDUL KARHM ATTAYEE

(INCUMBENT).

MINISTER OF WATER AND POWER - JUMA MOHAMMAD

MOHAMMADI (INCUMBENT).

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SECRETARY GENERAL OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY-

WAHEED ABDULLAH (INCUMBENT). FORMERLY TITLED DEPUTY FOREIGN  
MINISTER.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CABINET WAS FOLLOWED BY ANNOUNCEMENT  
THAT VICE PRESIDENTS WOULD BE APPOINTED, IN  
ACCXRDANCE WITH CONSTITUTION, AFTER PROCLAMATION OF

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SSC-01 SSM-03 AID-05 TRSE-00 EB-08 /073 W

-----201300Z 016938 /43

P R 201125Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1841

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 1921/2

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

NATIONAL REVOLUTION PARTY. (THE CONSTITUTION REQUIRES THEM TO BE DRAWN FROM PARTY MEMBERSHIP.) DR. MOHAMMAD HASSAN SHARQ'S FAILURE (HE WAS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER) TO APPEAR AMONG CABINET SHOULD THUS NOT BE TAKEN AS FINAL WORD OF HIS POLITICAL DEMISE. HE MAY RE-APPEAR AS A VICE PRESIDENT. FAIZ MOHAMMAD'S NON-APPEARANCE HOWEVER (HE WAS MINISTER OF FRONTIER AFFAIRS) MAY BE SIGNAL OF HIS ENDED POLITICAL IMPORTANCE, EVEN IF HE RE-APPEARS AS PARTY FUNCTIONARY.

5. AS WILL BE SEEN AT ONCE THERE IS MUCH OLD WINE IN MANY OLD BOTTLES, SOME OF GOOD VINTAGE AND SOME, IN OUR MINDS, OF DOUBTFUL QUALITY FROM THE BEGINNING. (SOME AFGHANS HAVE USED THEIR OLD PROVERB "THE SAME SOUP, THE SAME BOWLS" TO DESCRIBE THE NEW CABINET.) THE ONLY REALLY NEW FACE IN DAOUD'S CABINET IS THAT OF IBRAHIM MAJID SERAJ, WHOSE FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS WITH FORMER KING AMANULLAH AND WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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DAOUD AND HIS MANY ROYAL KINSMEN ARE ALL BOUND WITH THE SURNAME "SERAJ". MAJID SERAJ IS A GRANDSON OF KING HABIBULLAH, WHO RULED BETWEEN 1901-1919, AND THUS A PROMINENT MOHAMMADZAI CLANSMAN.

6. ABDUL KAYOUM (WARDAK) WAS DEMOTED: HE PASSED FROM THE PRESTIGIOUS EDUCATION MINISTER OF FRONTIER AFFAIRS, WHICH DAOUD SEEMS TO USE AS A WAY STATION TO OBIVION. (ONE FORMER MINISTER, PACHA GUL, WAS BANISHED TO BULGARIA FROM THE POST; FAIZ MOHAMMAD WENT TO FRONTIER AFFAIRS FROM THE MORE PRESTIGIOUS INTERIOR MINISTRY.)

7. GENERAL HAIDAR RASULI, A MOHAMMADZAI, WAS ELEVATED TO MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, THOUGH WE CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE THAT HE AND MOHEBI WILL CONTINUE FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR PREVIOUS DUTIES UNTIL REPLACEMENTS ARE NAMED. WAHEED ABDULLAH, ALSO A MOHAMMADZAI, WAS ALSO ELEVATED IN RANK, THOUGH NOT MADE MINISTER. HE PERSIAN LANGUAGE TITLE "MO'EEEN" (DEPUTY) HAS CHANGED TO "MO'AWEN", WHICH PROTOCOL OFFICIALS RENDER AS "SECRETARY GENERAL". WHILE OFFICIAL AFGHAN ENGLISH TRANSLATION IS NOT A

CLOSE FIT, ABDULLAH PROBABLY FEELS HE HAS BEEN GIVEN A PROMOTION. NOTHING WAS SAID IN THE CABINET ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT A FOREIGN MINISTER. DAOUD HELD THE PORTFOLIO AFTER THE COUP.

8. COMMENT: AFGHANS WHO HAD HOPED FOR RETURN OF PRE-DAOUD TECHNOCRATS WILL BE DISAPPOINTED BY NEW CABINET. YET THE CHANGES EFFECTED WERE QUINTESSENTIALLY DAOUD -- INCREMENTAL CHANGES IN DIRECTIONS THAT HAVE BECOME APPARENT IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. THE NEW CABINET LINE-UP MAY BE marginally MORE COMPETENT TECHNICALLY (CHANGES IN EDUCATION); THE DISAPPEARANCE OF FAIZ MOHAMMAD IS THE LAST STEP  
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IN THE LONG TERM SHIFTING OF REPUTED "LEFTISTS" FROM POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE; AND MAJID SERAJ'S APPOINTMENT AND THE ELEVATION IN RANK OF OTHER MOHAMMADZAIS IS ANOTHER STEP IN HEALING RIFTS IN THE FIRST FAMILY CAUSED BY THE 1973 COUP. FOR THE U.S. THE NEW CABINET MOST LIKELY HERALDS A RETURN TO BUSINESS AS USUAL PRIOR TO JANUARY 30 WHEN THE LOYA JIRGAH (NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY) WAS CONVENED AND DELIBERATIONS ON THE CONSTITUTION FROZE THE NORMALLY SOLOW AFGHAN BUREAUCRATIC PROCESSES.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009